

Message Text

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ACTION IO-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-10 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 INRE-00 SSO-00 L-02 PM-03 PRS-01 DODE-00

USIE-00 NSCE-00 H-01 ACDA-10 SAJ-01 AF-04 ARA-10 EA-13

NEA-06 EUR-10 DRC-01 /101 W
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FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2400

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL HONK KONG

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 208

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UN CH VS

SUBJ: PARACELS IN SECURITY COUNCIL

1. SECURITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT FACIO TELEPHONED AMBAS-
SADOR BENNETT AT END OF HIS DAY OF CONSULTATIONS ON GVN
REQUEST FOR SC MEETING ON PARACELS ISSUE. FACIO SAID HE
HAD STRONG IMPRESSION AFTER DAY OF TALKING WITH ALL OF
SC MEMBERS THAT VIET-NAM "WILL NOT GET ANYWHERE" IN
ITS EFFORT BRING PARACELS BEFORE COUNCIL. HE IS DOUBT-
FUL THAT GVN COULD EVEN BE SUCCESSFUL IN GETTING MATTER
INSCRIBED ON SECURITY COUNCIL AGENDA. SEVERAL MEMBERS
HAD MADE POINT THERE WOULD BE ARGUMENTS IN COUNCIL AS
TO WHO REPRESENTS VIET-NAM. THERE WOULD BE
CONTENTIOUS PROBLEM OF SEATING GVN REPRESENTATIVE AND
IN FACIO'S OPINION THIS WOULD BE VERY EMBARRASSING
TO VIET-NAMESE FOREIGN MINISTER IF HE SHOULD CARRY OUT HIS
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ANNOUNCED PLAN TO BE PRESENT. IN SUM, FACIO BELIEVES SC
CONSIDERATION OF PARACELS ISSUE WOULD TURN OUT TO BE

COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE FOR GVN AND VIETNAMESE WOULD BE EXPOSED TO HUMILIATION. SITUATION WOULD BE FAR MORE EMBARRASSING TO THEM THAN IF THEY DECIDED TO REFRAIN FROM PRESSING REQUEST FOR SC MEETING. HE PLANS TO RECEIVE GVN REP 11:30 A.M. JAN 22 LOCAL TIME AND WILL ADVISE THEM OF ABOVE VIEWS. HE COMMENTED THAT HE HOPED THIS WOULD DISSUADE THEM FROM GOING FORWARD AND THAT GVN COULD BE CONTENT WITH HAVING BROUGHT ISSUE TO WORLD OPINION THROUGH UN CIRCULATION OF ITS EARLIER LETTERS OF COMPLAINT. IF THEY STILL, HOWEVER, SHOULD INSIST ON GOING AHEAD, HE SUPPOSED HE WOULD HAVE TO CALL MEETING.

2. FACIO SAID THAT CHINESE, IN PERSON OF DEPPERMREP CHUANG YEN, HAD COME BACK TO HIM AT END OF DAY, ANXIOUS TO BE INFORMED ON RESULTS OF CONSULTATIONS. SC PRESIDENT TOLD CHINESE HE HAD NOT YET COME TO ANY CONCLUSION RE CALLING MEETING AND WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH CHINESE MISSION LATER.

3. FOLLOWING ARE DETAILS OF FACIO'S CONSULTATIONS AS REPORTED BY HIM.

A. UK -- UK REP SAID HE HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS BUT UK HAS ALWAYS VOTED FOR INSCRIPTION ON PRINCIPLE. UK BELIEVES SC PRESTIGE INVOLVED; WHEN THERE IS TROUBLE, COUNCIL SHOULD BE SEEN TO BE ACTIVE. HOWEVER, BRITISH DOUBT THAT MEETING WOULD BE FRUITFUL AND BELIEVE CONSIDERATION THERE COULD BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE. THERE WOULD BE PROBLEM IN SEATING VIET-NAM. (UKUN TELLS US THEY ARE HOPING QUESTION WILL GO AWAY BUT ON CONTINGENCY BASIS ARE ASKING FOR INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTE IN FAVOR OF INSCRIPTION).

B. FRANCE -- FRENCH CHARGE WAS EXTREMELY VAGUE. HE MADE STRONG EFFORT IN DISAVOWING THAT ANY EARLIER POSITION HELD BY FRENCH RE SOVEREIGNTY OF PARACELS NO LONGER OBTAINED. HE TOOK POSITION THAT WHAT FRENCH HAD DONE IN EARLIER YEARS IN INDOCHINA HAD NO VALIDITY NOW. FACIO TOLD LECOMPTE HE SAW MATTER AS ONE INVOLVING CHARGES OF AGGRESSION RATHER THAN ONE INVOLVING SC DECISION ON SOVEREIGNTY. FRENCH AVOIDED COMMENT.

C. USSR -- MALIK WAS LIGHTHEARTED ABOUT THE WHOLE THING, SAYING HE HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS. HE ADMITTED IT WOULD BE CONFIDENTIAL
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AWKWARD FOR USSR TO HAVE TO BACK THE CHINESE, (HE MADE NO COMMENT RE BACKING VIET-NAM.)
AND WENT ON IN GREAT GOOD HUMOR TO SAY THAT US WOULD HAVE A PROBLEM IN CHOSING "BETWEEN ITS OLD ALLY AND ITS NEW FRIEND."
D. INDONESIA AND IRAQ -- BOTH HAD DOUBT AS TO WHO IS LEGITIMATE RE OF VIET-NAM. INDONESIAN PERM REP STRESSED MATTER WAS A MOST DELEICATE ONE FOR JAKARTA AND SAID HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD WANT TO KNOW HANOI'S VIEW BEFORE DECIDING ITS POSITION. HE THOUGHT IT WOULD TAKE TIME TO ASCERTAIN HANOI'S POSITION.

E. AUSTRALIA AND AUSTRIA -- BOTH HAD STRONG DOUBTS
THAT SC MEETING ON MATTER WOULD BE FRUITFUL AND
DID NOT BELIEVE CONSIDERATION OF ISSUE WOULD INCREASE
COUNCIL'S PRESTIGE.

F. PERU -- CHARGE SAID VERY LITTLE. HE DID EXPRESS
INTEREST IN KNOWING THE PRECEDENTS FOR NON-MEMBERS OF
UN TO BRING ITEM BEFORE SECURITY COUNCIL.
BENNETT

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